

Message Text

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PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, PERSONS AND QUACKENBUSH

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ILO

SUBJ: ILO CONFERENCE: SOVIETS TO BE CALLED TO ACCOUNT UNDER THREE
ILO CONVENTIONS

1. SUMMARY. REPORT OF ILO COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS FOR 60TH CONFERENCE NEXT MONTH
AGAIN CRITICIZES SOVIET LAW FOR INCONSISTENCIES WITH ILO
CONVENTIONS ON FORCE LABOR (NO. 29), HOLIDAYS WITH PAY
(NO. 52) AND FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION (NO. 87). SOVIETS WILL
BE EXPECTED TO EXPLAIN DISCREPANCIES IN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS. AT 59TH SESSION LAST JUNE,
SOVIETS PREVENTED ADOPTION BY CONFERENCE OF CRITICAL
COMMITTEE REPORT ONLY BY PARLIAMENTARY MANEUVER WHICH
RESULTED IN LACK OF QUORUM. END SUMMARY.

2. CONVENTION NO. 29-FORCED LABOR. COMMITTEE CRITICIZED
SOVIETS ON THREE POINTS RAISED LAST JUNE AT 59TH ILO
CONFERENCE: (1) DIRECTION OF EMPLOYMENT OF CERTAIN PERSONS,
(2) OBLIGATIONS IN PLANNING OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND
(3) TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF COLLECTIVE FARMS. ON FIRST
POINT COMMITTEE NOTED THAT "LEGISLATION IMPOSING AN OBLIGATION
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ON ALL ABLE-BODIED CITIZENS TO ENGAGE IN A GAINFUL OCCUPATION,

FAILING WHICH THEY ARE LIABLE TO COMPULSORY DIRECTION TO SPECIFIC WORK, SUBJECT TO PENAL SANCTIONS, IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE CONVENTION". COMMITTEE FURTHER STATED "IN ANY EVENT, THE IMPOSITION OF LABOR AS A PREVENTATIVE MEASURE BY AN ADMINISTRATIVE BODY UPON PERSONS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF ANY OFFENSE BY ANY JUDICIAL INSTANCE IS NOT PERMITTED BY THE CONVENTION". COMMITTEE CONCLUDED BY HOPING THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE MEASURES TO BRING ITS LAWS INTO CONFORMITY WITH CONVENTION. ON SECOND POINT, COMMITTEE ASKED SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ENFORCEMENT OF OBLIGATIONS IMPOSED ON MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE FARMS BY AGRICULTURAL PLANS. ON THIRD POINT, COMMITTEE NOTED NEW SOVIET REGULATIONS (AUGUST 28, 1974) ON PASSPORTS PROVIDE FOR ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS TO CITIZENS LIVING IN RURAL AREAS WHEN THEY MOVE TO ANOTHER PLACE FOR A PROLONGED PERIOD. COMMITTEE HOPED SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER AMENDMENT OF LEGISLATION ON THAT MEMBERS OF COLLECTIVE FARMS MIGHT TERMINATE THEIR MEMBERSHIP BY UNILATERAL DECISION SUBJECT ONLY TO REASONABLE NOTICE.

3. CONVENTION 52-HOLIDAYS WITH PAY. COMMITTEE NOTED THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN ON ACTION ITS PREVIOUS OBSERVATIONS, QUOTED THE TEXT OF ITS REPORT TO THE 59TH SESSION (1974), AND HOPED THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD SUPPLY INFORMATION AND TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. ILO CONVENTION 87-FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION. COMMITTEE NOTED THAT SOVIET REPORT CONTAINED NO NEW INFORMATION AND REPEATED TEXT OF ITS REPORT TO 59TH SESSION OF CONFERENCE (FIRST TWO PARAS PAGE 148 CONCERNING RIGHT OF MANAGERIAL PERSONNEL TO FORM TRADE UNIONS WERE DELETED; SOVIETS PROVIDED ANSWER AT 59TH SESSION). COMMITTEE AGAIN ASKED SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLY FULL PARTICULARS AND TO REPORT ON PERIOD ENDING JUNE 1975.

5. COMMENT: SOVIETS WERE EMBARRASSED LAST JUNE BY COMMITTEE CRITICISM UNDER FORCED LABOR CONVENTION AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO TRY AGAIN TO AVOID ADOPTION BY CONFERENCE OF COMMITTEE REPORT. COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF INDEPENDENT AND DISTINGUISHED JURISTS, INCLUDING SOME FROM FREE COUNTRIES AND USSR. FACT
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THAT SOVIETS AMENDED INTERNAL PASSPORT REGULATIONS IS AN INDICATION OF (1) SOVIET SENSITIVITY TO CRITICISM IN ILO AND (2) POWER OF ILO-UNIQUE IN UN SYSTEM-TO SEEK COMPLIANCE TO INTERNATIONALLY AGREED STANDARDS. ABRAMS

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